

CLAIMS:

SR 1. A foot-operated input unit (3) for a computer (1), which forms a dictating machine, comprising
foot-operated input means (24) for manually inputting control information (SI) by which an audio reproduction mode of the dictating machine can be activated (25) or deactivated (26),
5 while, in the case of activated audio reproduction mode, audio information (AI) stored in the dictating machine can be delivered to headphones (34) or a loudspeaker (32) respectively, and including connection means (28, 33, 35) for connecting the input unit (3) to the computer while the control information (SI) can be delivered to the computer (1) by the connection means (28, 33, 35),

10 characterized
in that a digital data bus link can be connected to the connection means (28, 33, 35) and
in that the connection means are arranged for receiving the audio information (AI) as digital audio data from the computer (1) and for delivering the control information (SI) as control data to the computer (1) via the digital data bus link, and
15 in that the headphones (34) or the loudspeaker respectively, can be connected to the connection means (28, 33, 35).

2. An input unit (3) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that audio processing means (29) are provided which are arranged for processing the audio information (AI)
20 received via the connection means (28, 33, 35) and for delivering an analog audio signal (AS3) for the headphones (34) or loudspeaker respectively, to the connection means (33).

3. An input unit (3) as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the connection means (28) are arranged for setting up a USB data link (Universal Serial Bus: Specification
25 Version 1.0 on January 15, 1996, or version 2.0).

4. An input unit (3) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that a loudspeaker (32) is provided and in that the audio processing means (29) are arranged for delivering the analog audio signal to a built-in loudspeaker (32).

5. An input unit (3) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that connection means are arranged for setting up a digital data bus link over a radio-frequency radio link.

6. An input unit as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the connection means
5 are arranged for setting up a radio-frequency radio link corresponding to the Bluetooth Specification (Bluetooth Special Interest Group, May 1998).

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